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Larson Responds To Petraeus Testimony on Iraq

WASHINGTON ♦ Today, before the House Armed Services and Foreign Affairs Committees, General David Petraeus and Ambassador Ryan Crocker offered ♦uneven progress♦ in Iraq, but asked for more time for a military strategy to work. This testimony comes after the nonpartisan Government Accountability Office and an independent commission of retired military officers report Iraq has failed to meet key benchmarks.

Congressman John B. Larson (CT-1), Vice Chairman of the Democratic Caucus released the following statement:

□ Today, General Petraeus and Ambassador Crocker asked for more time and more patience from Congress on Iraq. Unfortunately for our men and women in uniform the Petraeus timetable is not a timeframe to bring them home it□ s a timeframe for President Bush to save face and run out the clock on his administration. But, the American people have run out of patience and Bush□ s Iraq policies have run out of time.

I have the utmost respect for General Petraeus and his lifetime of military accomplishments. But, he has been asked to carry out an unworkable policy.

Our troops on the ground have achieved everything we have asked of them, yet Iraqi political leaders have fallen short. It is time to take the burden of this war off of the shoulders of America□ s young men and women in uniform.

When 78% of Americans think it is time for us to withdraw from Iraq and 60% of Iraqis think it is acceptable to attack our soldiers, we cannot afford more time and patience. We can not afford to give this administration another deadline extension at the expense of American blood and money.

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